



BITS OF GOLD

Montana Talking Book Library

Regional Library of the National Library Service
For the Blind and Physically Handicapped
(NLS/BPH)

Volume 101, Number 2

2001

No man is an island, entire of itself; every man is a piece of the continent, a part of the main.
--John Donne

SEPTEMBER 11, 2001

The Montana Talking Book Library staff conveys our condolences to any and all patrons who experienced personal loss from the September 11th terrorist attacks on America. Be assured that we are committed to continue providing the best possible service to our patrons. If you have any questions concerning your service or selection of books, please don't hesitate to call us at 1-800-332-3400 in Montana and 444-2064 in Helena. We share the following quotes from fellow Americans and other global citizens that express thoughts of freedom, unity and peace:

"Arms alone are not enough to keep the peace. It must be kept by men"
-- John Fitzgerald Kennedy

"I would like to be known as a person concerned about freedom and equality and justice and prosperity for all people." -- Rosa Parks

"America lives in the heart of every man everywhere who wishes to find a region where he will be free to work out his destiny as he chooses" -- Woodrow Wilson

"You gain strength, courage, and confidence by every experience in which you really stop to look fear in the face. You must do the thing which you think you cannot do."
--Eleanor Roosevelt

"I expect to pass this way but once; any good therefore that I can do, or any kindness that I can show to any fellow creature, let me do it now. Let me not defer or neglect it, for I shall not pass this way again." -- Etienne de Grellet

LIBRARIAN'S LOG

Spotlight on a Volunteer

Velleda Bates was diagnosed with diabetic retinopathy six years ago. The doctor explained the blood vessels in the retina start bleeding and the vessel dies, causing loss of eyesight. Laser surgery stops the bleeding, but only after the damage is already done. Her reaction to the news was understandable. She was depressed and uncertain how to proceed. Support came from her AA group as well as her church giving her encouragement to “get up and do something about her life”.

I first met Velleda at a cooking class sponsored by the Montana Association for the Blind's (MAB) Summer Orientation Program (SOP). A small petite woman approached me. In a quiet, high-pitched voice she said: “I’m Velleda Bates, and I live in Helena. Can I volunteer at the Talking Book Library?” I didn’t know what to make of this small woman who appeared shy and quiet. I answered “Sure, come and talk to me when you get back to Helena”. That was three summer’s ago. This November will make three years that Velleda has volunteered at the Montana Talking Book Library (MTBL). At this year’s Annual Volunteer luncheon she received a “Beyond the Call of Duty” award. Let me share some things about Velleda that will give a hint to why she received that award:

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LIBRARY HOURS: Mon-Fri 8am-5pm

PHONE HOURS: Mon-Fri 9am-5pm

PHONE NUMBERS: 1-800-332-3400 or 406-444-2064

MTBL WEB SITE: <http://www.msl.state.mt.us/tbl>

WEBOPAC WEB SITE: <http://www.klasweb.msl.state.mt.us>

REGIONAL LIBRARIAN: Christie Briggs, cbriggs@state.mt.us

COORDINATOR VOL SVC: Susan Merrin, smerrin@state.mt.us

CIRCULATION CLERK: Carolyn Meier, cameier@state.mt.us

READER ADVISORS: Cheryl Christopher, cchristopher@state.mt.us

Moriah Haley, mhaley@state.mt.us

Lee Madison, lmadison@state.mt.us

BITS OF GOLD EDITOR: Cheryl Christopher

LIBRARIAN'S LOG (continued from page 2)

Wherever she goes, her guide dog and partner, Seemore, is always at her side. She fondly nicknamed him "Velcro" because he won't let her out of his sight. In 1996, she became a MTBL patron. Velleda was encouraged by Sam Laringo of the Montana Blind and Low Vision Services (BLVS) to go to the MAB's SOP. She then began getting involved with MAB. She crochets afghans for the MAB to raffle each year, speaks at community clubs and organizations, and is a terrific advocate for both MAB and MTBL. Velleda also taught a craft class at MAB's SOP last summer.

She volunteers two days a week at MTBL using a Closed Circuit Television (CCTV). Velleda also gives instruction on the use of the CCTV to others. She is generous in assisting other volunteers with their book carts. She is available to help on short notice and works long hours. Velleda has courage and a strong work ethic. We thanked her recently for teaching us, the staff, how a Seeing Eye dog works and how to respect the work Seemore and Velleda do together, as partners.

Digital Recording Plans 2002

Susie Merrin, Coordinator of the Montana Recording Program, is currently doing research on the appropriate type of digital equipment for our local Montana Recording Program. This initially means that we will be able to improve the sound quality of our local recordings. You will continue to use the 4 track cassette tapes with the standard playback machine. The National Library Service plans to change the cassette format and the playback machines, but this is a lengthy process and may take 2-5 years to accomplish. In the meantime we are going the same direction as other Talking Book Libraries in preparing for the next generation of audio books for our patrons. Stay tuned for better quality MCB recordings.

Best Regards,
Christie Briggs, Supervisor

NEW MTBL MAIL PICK-UP TIME

The mail for MTBL is now being picked up at a new time. If you want us to get a book in the mail for you the same day, please call no later than 12 noon.

THE LIBRARY WILL BE CLOSED

November 12, 2001	Veteran's Day	January 1, 2002	New Year's Day
November 22, 2001	Thanksgiving Day	January 21, 2002	Martin Luther King
December 25, 2001	Christmas	February 18, 2002	President's Day

WHERE IN AMERICA...CAN YOU FIND?

The theme for this years Summer Reading Program was “Where In America...Can You Find?” Those who joined us spent their vacation traveling around the USA. We visited five regions covering all 50 states. Driving on the back roads, everyone had a chance to visit living history parks, unique museums, food, craft & fun festivals, and many natural wonders. Our purpose was to find unusual places that expressed the creativity, inventiveness and uniqueness of all Americans. We also wanted to point out the beauty of our land not located in National Parks. All participants did a great job completing their reading contracts and bonus point logs. They would agree that taking the back roads provides for some exciting adventures.

MTBL HONORS VOLUNTEERS AT APPRECIATION LUNCHEON

The 20th Anniversary of the MTBL's Volunteer Program was celebrated at the Montana Club in Helena on September 14th. Seventy volunteers listened as Christie Briggs acknowledged America's tragedy of the previous Tuesday and emphasized the importance of still holding the luncheon to honor them.

Dave Walter, keynote speaker, shared humorous excerpts from his book Speaking Ill of the Dead (MCB 619). John Doig, who has been repairing Talking Book cassette players for the past ten years, was this year's recipient of the Telephone Pioneer Award. Our Special Appreciation Award was given to Lea Blunn. Lea has worked as a volunteer for the past 18 years and has done most of the volunteer tasks at MTBL. The Recording Team of the Year Award went to Bob and Marie Vanisko and Gil Gilbertson. Bob has recorded 11 books since he began narrating in 1991.

Alexis Lund, Christina Rose, Erin and Jessica Vashro, Kenzie Clark, Elizabeth Semple, Emily Pederson, and Ariel Tange received our Youth Volunteer Certificates of Appreciation and toe socks. We also gave “Beyond the Call of Duty” Certificates to Velleda Bates and her guide dog Seemore, William Bell, Dorothy Carpenter, Mary Davis, Gil Gilbertson, Barbara Harris, Inez Hohn, Jean Smith and Edith “ET” Tanna. Five, ten and twenty Years of Service volunteers were honored and presented gifts. Every volunteer received a gift decorated by library staff.

The luncheon ended appropriately with a beautifully rendered solo of “Dona Nobis Pacem”—Give Us Peace.

Never doubt that a small, group of thoughtful committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has. –Margaret Mead

New Additions to MTBL'S Descriptive Video Collection

MTBL's Descriptive Video (DV) collection is growing thanks to the generosity from private donations. We will be publishing a new catalog and it will be available after January 2002. Patrons who have been receiving books for 3-6 months are now eligible to receive descriptive videos. Please contact us if you wish to receive this service. The following are the new additions to our collection:

DV 203	GOMER PYLE: CAPTAIN IRONPANTS	DV 209	WIZARD OF OZ
DV 204	GOMER PYLE: GOMER LEARNS A BULLY	DV 210	MULAN
DV 205	ANDY GRIFFITH: GUITAR PLAYER	DV 211	GONE WITH THE WIND
DV 206	GOMER PYLE: RETURN A WEEKS PAY	DV 214	LIFE IS BEAUTIFUL
DV 207	ANDY GRIFFITH: OPIE'S CHARITY	DV 216	MRS DOUBTFIRE
DV 208	TITANIC	DV 224	HELLO DOLLY
		DV 225	SHAKESPEARE IN LOVE
		DV 226	TARZAN
		DV 227	THERE'S SOMETHING ABOUT MARY
		DV 228	YOU'VE GOT MAIL

We have just started purchasing DV's from a Canadian vendor. This new vendor is interested in how our patrons enjoy these classic movies. Checkout the following DV's and play movie critic—let us know what you think:

DV 212	ALGIERS	DV 219	BLACKBEARD, THE PIRATE
DV 213	THE AMBASSADOR'S DAUGHTER	DV 220	THE BELLS OF ST MARY'S
DV 215	ANGEL AND THE BADMAN	DV 221	BORDERLINE
DV 217	AS YOU LIKE IT	DV 222	BREAKTHROUGH
		DV 223	BYE BYE BLUES

BEFORE MOVIES

Before movies, there were books! If you don't find the following movies in our DV collection, remember it was a book first:

RC 51409	<u>The Borrower's</u>	RC 44292	<u>Madeline</u>
RC 46267	<u>Bridget Jones's Diary</u>	RC 44751	<u>The Perfect Storm</u>
RC 46839	<u>Charlotte's Web</u>	RC 24693	<u>Runaway Ralph</u>
RC 49086	<u>Chocolat</u>	RC 35064	<u>Shiloh</u>
RC 36957	<u>The Face on the Milk Carton</u>	RC 32677	<u>Shrek</u>
RC 48808	<u>Hearts in Atlantis</u>	RC 31831	<u>Stuart Little</u>
RC 48978	<u>The Hobbit</u>	RC 44849	<u>Tuesday's with Maury</u>

Resources for Recorded Magazines

The National Library Service recently published a new edition of “Magazines in Special Media”. This catalog lists numerous magazines available to our patrons. Part 1 includes magazines that are free and Part 2 includes those available for a subscription fee. We will be happy to send you a copy of this catalog upon request.

The American Printing House produces “Reader’s Digest” (on cassette or in large print) and “Newsweek”. As our patron, you may receive these magazines at no charge. The MTBL volunteers produce “Montana Magazine of Western History”, “Montana Outdoors” & “WOW”. These are included in the following list of magazines that are also circulated free to our patrons:

American History	Montana Maturity
Arizona Highway	Montana Magazine of Western History
Choice	Montana Outdoors
Country Music Magazine	National Geographic Traveler
Diabetes Self-Management	Retirement Life
Good Old Days	Smithsonian
Guidepost	Southern Living
Humpty Dumpty’s Magazine	Saturday Evening Post
Idaho Yesterday	WOW-Wild Outdoor World
Modern Maturity	

Please contact us if you would like a catalog or wish to sign up for a magazine. And REMEMBER that it takes six to eight weeks to start or cancel a subscription.

Life is what we make of it, always has been, always will be.

--Grandma Moses

NEW SOCIAL SECURITY PUBLICATIONS IN BRAILLE

The following titles were recently published in Braille and are available from the Social Security Administration:

- 1) “If You are Blind or have Low Vision—How we can help”
- 2) “2001 Red Book on Employment Support: A summary guide to employment support available to people with disabilities under the Social Security Disability Insurance and Supplemental Security Income programs (2 Volumes)”
- 3) “Working while Disabled—How we can help”

Please contact them at 1-800-772-1213 or at <http://www.ssa.gov> on the internet.

SEARCH OUR COLLECTION ONLINE

Currently, there are over 50,000 books on tape that MTBL has received from NLS. Our MCB collection has over 600 books on tape. If you have access to the internet, you may search by author, title, or key word by going to this web site:

<http://www.klasweb.msl.state.mt.us>

PATRON PICKS

RC 20837	The Dream and the Tomb: a History of the Crusades
RC 45559	East to the Dawn: the Life of Amelia Earhart
RC 47490	The Greatest Generation
RC 49377	Nursery Tales Around the World
RC 50366	Two Suns in the Sky
MCB 183	No Time for Tears

TIPS FOR BETTER SERVICE

DO--Leave your name, phone number and message on our voice mail when you call after hours.

DO--Call us if you have questions, want replacements for books or equipment, would like to change your service type, preferences, or amount of books received, or to give us your short request list.

DO--Call us if we've promised to send a book or machine out and you haven't received it within a few days.

DO--Listen to one book at a time so all the tapes for that book get returned to us.

DO--Listen to your books and magazines with the machine unplugged. Plug-in your cassette player ONLY when you need to recharge the battery.

DO--Return your books to the library as you finish them and do not pass them to someone else. There are a lot of popular books and we usually have other patrons waiting to read them.

Montana Talking Book Library
1515 East Sixth Avenue
PO Box 201800
Helena, MT 59620-1800

Free Matter
for the Blind

Address Service Requested

This newsletter is available on cassette, e-mail and large print upon request or visit our website: <http://www.msl.state.mt.us/tbl>

RECENT TITLES FROM THE MONTANA RECORDING PROGRAM

- MCB 582** Leaning into the Wind ed. by Linda Hasselstrom;
Narrator—Lathie Poole.
A compilation of essays and poetry by contemporary women of the West. The book speaks of their raw and rugged experiences.
- MCB 587** The Persian Pickle Club by Sandra Dallas; Narrator—Colleen Mockler.
Rita Ritter, a newly married young “college woman” from Denver, moves with her husband back to his family farm in Harveyville, Kansas. She meets the ladies of the Persian Pickle Club, a local quilting group, and studies friendship, sewing and courage with the Club’s regulars.
- MCB 598** Secrets of the Ice Man by Dorothy Hinshaw Patent; Narrator—Jean Smith.
Thursday, September 19, 1991. A man’s dead body is discovered in the Austrian-Italian Alps. It is determined that he is over 4,000 years old. He is one of the greatest archaeological discoveries of the past century.
- MCB 599** Voodoo! The History of the 81st Tank Battalion by Le Roy Anderson; Narrator—Mark Lowery.
This is a local history of the 81st Tank Battalion. It traces their initial training in the U.S. through combat in Normandy to eastern Germany. The battalion was the first U.S. unit to invade Germany in World War II.